CASE.25 BETWEEN BEING INSENSITIVE AND SENSITIVE

P&JK

MIYOSHI MAKI

CHAPTER 25

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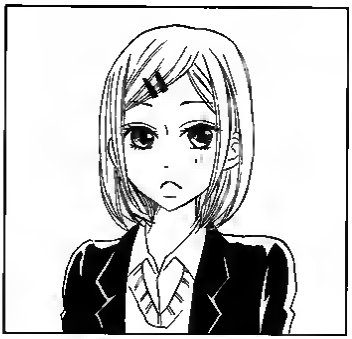
THAT GIRL SEEMS LIKE A GOOD MATCH FOR JIRO-CHAN...
SHE'S THAT FIRST YEAR WHO'S ALWAYS COVERED IN MUD...
THERE ARE ALSO DAYS WHEN SHE'S DRENCHED.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN HER LOOKING NORMAL...
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF GIRL SHE IS... SHE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A GYARU...
RATHER, IS SHE THE SOPHISTICATED TYPE?
.....

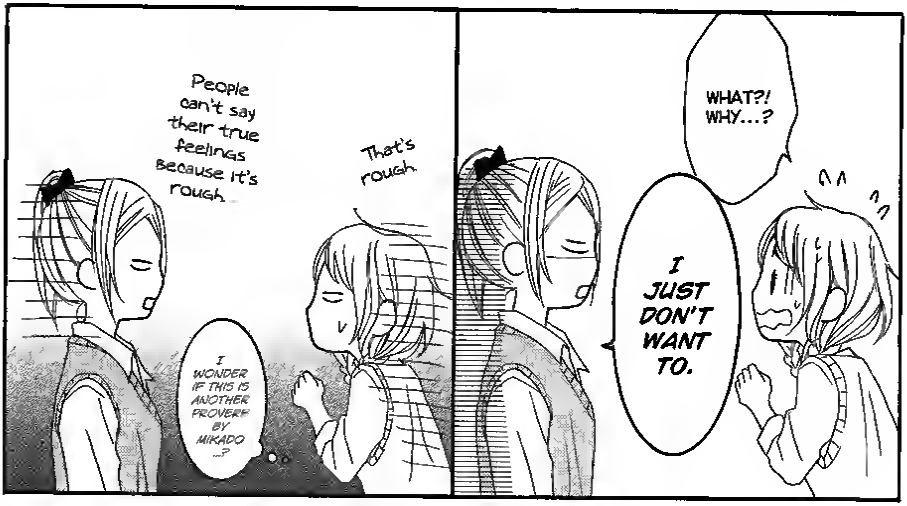
T/N: GYARU IS A TYPE OF JAPANESE STREET FASHION. IT IS TYPICALLY CHARACTERIZED BY DYED HAIR, EXCESSIVELY DECORATED NAILS, AND MAKEUP THAT FALLS UNDER THE GIRLY-GLAM STYLE.



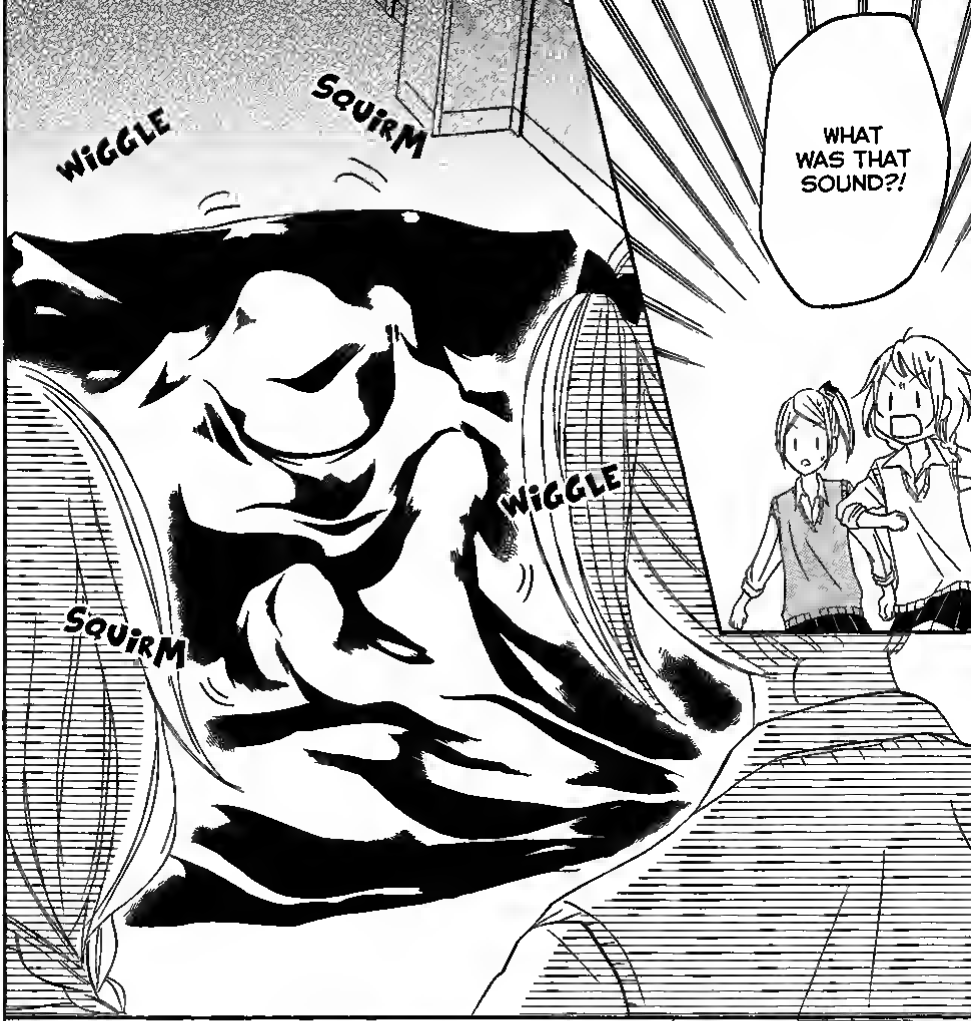
FUUKO ONOZUKA (16)

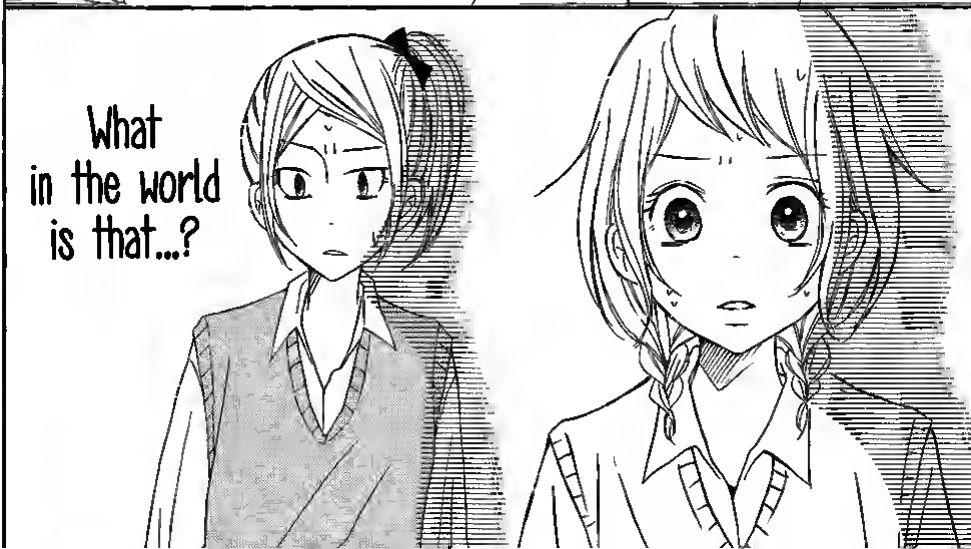
?
Butting in?
...KAKO,
AREN'T YOU BUTTING INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS?
I mean,
I WONDER WHAT TYPE OF GIRL JIRO-CHAN LIKES.
I CAN'T SEEM TO IMAGINE IT, SHOULD I ASK?
I MEAN, I WANT TO SEE THE POWER OF LOVE AT WORK... ♡
Of course, it will work!
I'm just making sure it will go smoothly between the two of you.
I'M SAYING THAT'S NOT NECESSARY!
POKE

EHH? BUT IF YOU DON'T GO ON THE OFFENSIVE, JIRO-CHAN WON'T GET IT...
NOT EVERYONE CAN USE THE ASSERTIVE AND STUBBORN STYLE AS YOURS~
TWIST
TWIST
It hurts
I WANT TO BE WITH JIRO FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE, BUT I CAN'T SAY THAT!!
?!


People can't say their true feelings because it's rough
That's rough
I WONDER IF THIS IS ANOTHER PROVERB BY MIKADO ...?
WHAT?! WHY...?
I JUST DON'T WANT TO.

I WON'T SPEAK TO YOU FOR A WHILE!!!
DON'T YOU DARE DO ANYTHING UNNECESSARY!
BUT~
NO BUTS!!!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND, YOU MATCHMAKER!!
OR ELSE, IF YOU DO ANYTHING, THEN THAT'S IT!
I'LL... UH...
DOOM
THUMP THUMP
?!
OKAY... I WON'T DO ANYTHING.
GOOD!
HMPH
HMM.. BUT SHE MADE IT SOUND LIKE SHE DIDN'T WANT JIRO-CHAN TO BE TAKEN AWAY FROM US..
IF WE DON'T DO ANYTHING, THEN SOMEDAY...


WIGGLE
SQUIRM
WIGGLE
SQUIRM
WHAT WAS THAT SOUND?!


What in the world is that...?

THE BLACKOUT CURTAINS SUDDENLY FELL DOWN— I THINK SOMEONE WAS CRUSHED UNDERNEATH...
It surprised me—
WHY IS THERE BLACKOUT CURTAIN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HALLWAY ...?
WAIT, IT LOOKS LIKE THE PERSON CAN'T GET OUT...
WIGGLE
SQUIRM
ARE YOU OKAY? WE'RE GOING TO PULL AT THIS END NOW—
WIGGLE
SQUIRM
AH, THANK YOU. I REALLY NEED HELP!
On the count of three
SLAP

GYAAAAAAAAAAA!
WHY ARE YOU ALSO FALLING DOWN, KAKO?!
MY FOOT IS GETTING SUCKED IN BY THE CURTAIN.
A DEMON IS.
A DEMON IS LIVING IN HERE!
SQUIRM
WIGGLE
OUCH, IT HURTS! YOU ARE STEPPING ON ME, YOU ARE STEPPING ON ME!
CALM DOWN! YOU'RE ACTING LIKE YOU ARE IN HELL!!!
SQUIRM
SLIP
SLIP
SLIP
SLIP
BAM!
BAM!
TURN
SLIP
BAM!
SLIP
BAM!
Ahhhh calm downnn

AHH HHHH HHHH HHHH HH
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
PULL
GYA?!
TUMBLE TUMBLE

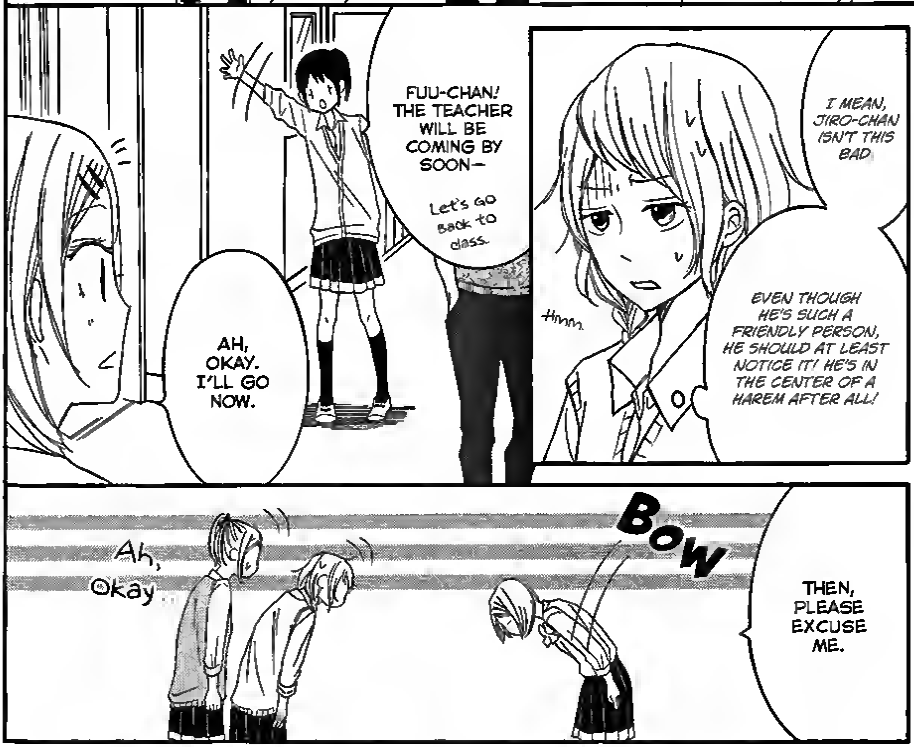
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE UNLUCKY TODAY AS WELL,
ONOZUKA.

...SENPAI.
UM MM MM MM ??? !!!
JIRO-CHAN...
I GOT HURT TOO...
THAT'S FUNNY.
IT'S NOT FUNNY!

SORRY FOR GETTING YOU GUYS INVOLVED.
NO, WE WERE THE ONES WHO DECIDED ON OUR OWN TO HELP...
We're sorry too
I BORROWED IT THE OTHER DAY WHEN I GOT STUCK IN A RICE FIELD...
RI-RICE FIELD?!
IT'S RIDICULOUS HOW UNLUCKY SHE IS.
AH, NAGAKURA-SENPAI, THIS IS THE JERSEY YOU LENT ME LAST TIME.
EH, YOU'RE ALREADY LENDING HER YOUR JERSEY?!
THE OTHER DAY, A DRUNK OLD MAN THREW UP ALL OVER HER EARLY IN THE MORNING.
SHIVER
AH
M
GLARE
MY BIG MOUTH ..!

I'm super happy! Thank you, Onozuka!!
GRAB
WAIT, MY JERSEY FEELS SO SOFT! DID YOU GET IT CLEANED?!
OH, RIGHT.
Whoa
SERIOUSLY?!
NO, I'M ALWAYS HELPED BY YOU.
I AM GLAD THAT SENPAI IS SO HAPPY WITH-
Well, I was in the middle of dowsing, so!
BLUSH
...N-

T/N A HAIKU IS A TRADITIONAL FORM OF JAPANESE POETRY THAT CONSISTS OF 3 LINES. THE FIRST AND LAST LINES OF A HAIKU HAVE 5 SYLLABLES AND THE MIDDLE LINE HAS 7 SYLLABLES.


Fuu-chan! The teacher will be coming by soon—
Let's go back to class.
Ah, okay. I'll go now.
I mean, Jiro-chan isn't this bad.
Even though he's such a friendly person, he should at least notice it! He's in the center of a harem after all!
Hmm

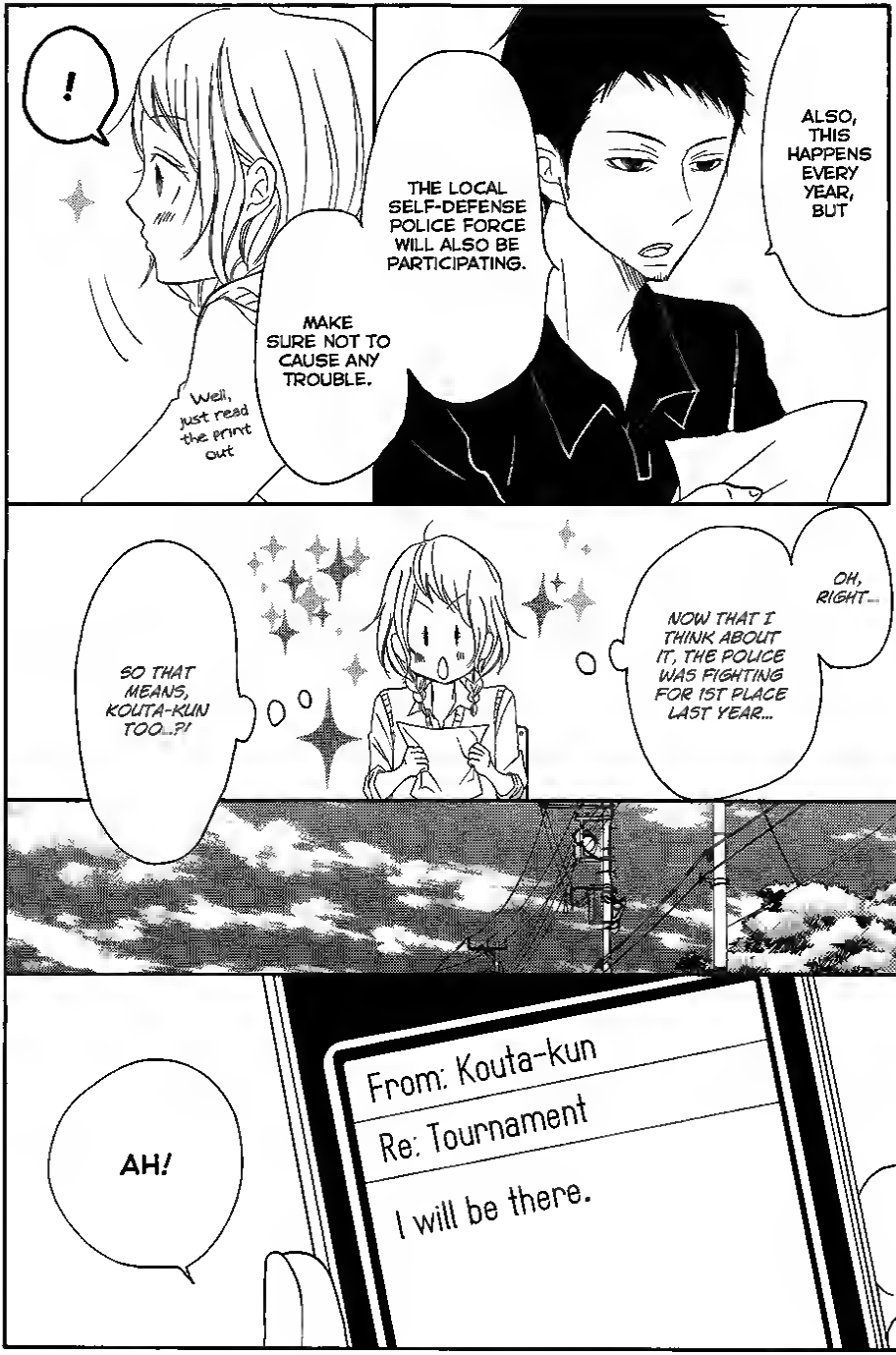
Okay
Ah, you can go ahead
SHE SEEMS LIKE
A GOOD GIRL...
GLANCE
DON'T YOU DARE LOOK AT ME.
PINCH
PINCH
PINCH
AHHH THE "DON'T LOOK" ATTACK.
UMM...
IS IT OKAY IF I ASK SOMETHING?

ARE EITHER OF YOU GOING OUT WITH NAGAKURA-SENPAI?
THE FRIEND FROM EARLIER..
WHAT?
Th... This girl...
Is she a spy from the enemy?!
?!
NO NO, I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE THAT.
BUT THAT MIGHT HAPPEN SOON!
Don't even bring it up

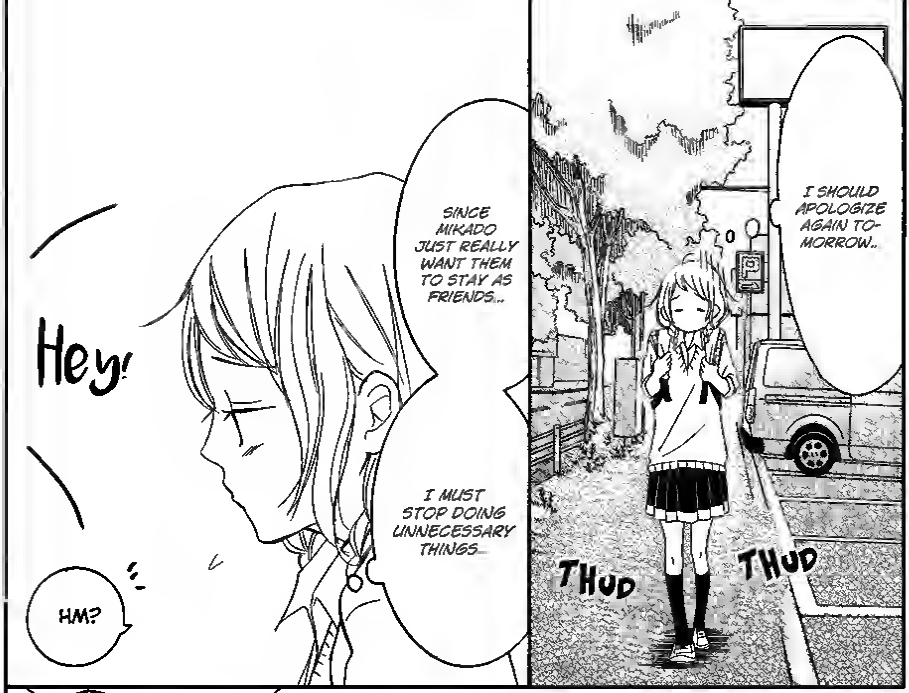
EH? YOU MEAN JUST AS FRIENDS, RIGHT?
GRACKLE
WELL, I'M JUST FRIENDS WITH HIM. BUT THAT GIRL OVER THERE... THEY'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER EVER SINCE THEY WERE BORN.
YAWN
SO-
GRACKLE
WE ARE SIMPLY NEIGHBORS WHO HAPPEN TO BE CLASSMATES.
DRAG
DRAG
I understand! Thanks!
I'M SORRY...

SILENCE
.....
I'M SORRY FOR ALREADY BREAKING MY PROMISE, MIKADO...
SHE LIT A FIRE TO MY STUBBORN FIGHTING SPIRIT, SO I COULDN'T HELP IT. I'M REALLY SORRY...
MIKADO..
PLEASE, SAY SOMETHING...
SILENCE
RATTLE
RATTLE
HEY, DON'T TALK IN SUCH A LOUD VOICE ABOUT THAT KIND OF TOPIC.
YOU CAN HURT ME!! ABUSE ME, PLEASE!!
YOU CAN HIT THIS ROTTEN BITCH OF LOVE, INSTEAD!

Isn't that harassment
Okay, sit down
AND SO,
WHY IS SENSEI CUSSING ALL OF A SUDDEN?!
WELL, TO BE HONEST, IT'S NOT THAT I HATE IT BUT WHEN THE BELL RINGS, YOU BETTER SIT IN YOUR SEAT, ROTTEN BITCH.
NOOOO
DON'T SAY "NOOO." THAT HURTS MY FEELINGS.
THIS YEAR'S TRADITIONAL TOURNAMENT EVENT WILL BE HELD SOON.
*visualization
It is an event that tests your endurance and patience.
Let's explain!!
The tournament starts with a 10km mountain hike. (or run)


!
Well, just read the print out
MAKE SURE NOT TO CAUSE ANY TROUBLE.
THE LOCAL SELF-DEFENSE POLICE FORCE WILL ALSO BE PARTICIPATING.
ALSO, THIS HAPPENS EVERY YEAR, BUT
OH, RIGHT...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THE POLICE WAS FIGHTING FOR 1ST PLACE LAST YEAR...
SO THAT MEANS, KOUTA-KUN TOO...?!
From: Kouta-kun
Re: Tournament
I will be there.
AH!

You broke our promise, so I'm not talking to you for a while.
!!
SILENCE
TAP TAP
....
KOUTA-KUN SAYS HE'LL ALSO BE AT THE TOURNAMENT!
HM!
SWISH
I can't live without you talking to me
...
MI MIKA-CHAN, FORGIVE ME.
I'LL BUY YOU RAMEN
SWISH
No exact date yet!!
TAP TAP
SHOCK
H... HOW LONG IS A WHILE...?
SHOCK
SHOCK
SHOCK

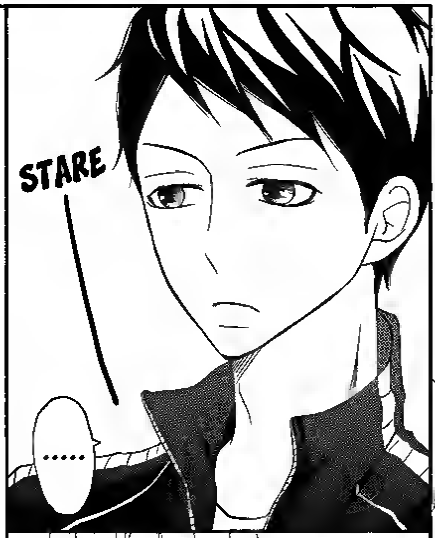

I SHOULD APOLOGIZE AGAIN TOMORROW..
THUD
THUD
SINCE MIKADO JUST REALLY WANT THEM TO STAY AS FRIENDS...
I MUST STOP DOING UNNECESSARY THINGS...
Hey!
HM?

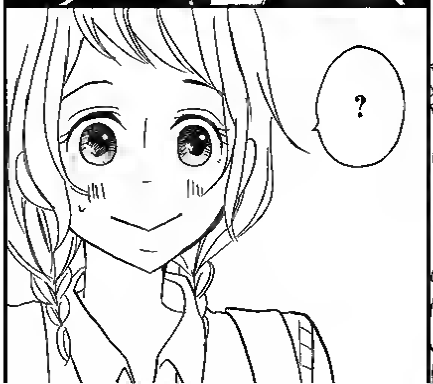
Kako-chan, yahoooo!!!
☆
It's been a while!
Ah, YAMAMOTO-SAN! AND KOMORI-SAN...
WHAT HAPPENED? WHY ARE YOU STANDING HERE WITH THAT GETUP ...?
WELL, ACTUALLY...

EH?
DON'T BADMOUTH ME BEHIND MY BACK.
BECAUSE OF YOUR HUSBAND, WE'RE FORCED TO DO THIS...
WE WERE GIVEN A TERRIBLE MISSION...
WE STILL DON'T HAVE TO DO SPECIAL TRAINING!!
Kouta-kun!
BLUSH BLUSH
THAT'S RIGHT, THAT'S RIGHT, GIVE US BACK OUR HOLIDAY!!
Special training?
KOUTA-KUN!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT. IT WAS AN ORDER FROM OUR SUPERIORS!

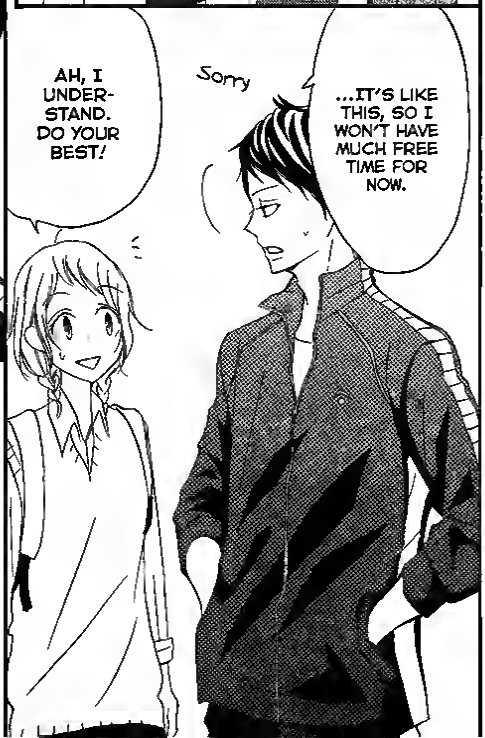
He is definitely holding one...
...BESIDES, I'M NOT HOLDING ANY GRUDGES.
HMPH
Don't tell her things like that!!
JOLT
SO THIS YEAR, HE'S MAKING US DO SPECIAL TRAINING TO WIN! OR SO HE SAYS.
How awkward is that?
OUR SUPERIORS ORDERED US TO WIN NO MATTER WHAT!
LISTEN,
YOUR HUSBAND LOST TO HIGH SCHOOL BOYS LAST YEAR DURING THE CAVALRY BATTLE.
Ahhhhh!!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, I'LL DIE!!
WE WON'T BE WALKING UP. WE WILL BE RUNNING.
WHY IS AN OLD MAN LIKE ME BEING ROPED INTO THIS..? I CAN'T WALK UP SUCH A ROCKY MOUNTAIN PATH..
I don't want to! I don't want to!
Come on, watch your step!
ALRIGHT... WE NEED TO GET GOING NOW!
PUSH
DRAG
THIS IS A DELIBERATE MURDER.
Calm him down!
PLEASE DON'T GET MY WIFE TANGLED INTO THIS!
STOP HIM, KAKO-CHAN! I'LL DIE...

I DIDN'T KNOW KOMORI-SAN WAS THAT KIND OF PERSON...
I WONDER IF THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE POLICE FORCE WHO CHANGE PERSONALITIES QUICKLY...
KOMORI-SAN!! EVERYBODY IS WAITING!!
I JUST WANT TO RELAX AT HOME!
Ahhhh! let me go!!
I WANT TO RELAX!


STARE
.....


?

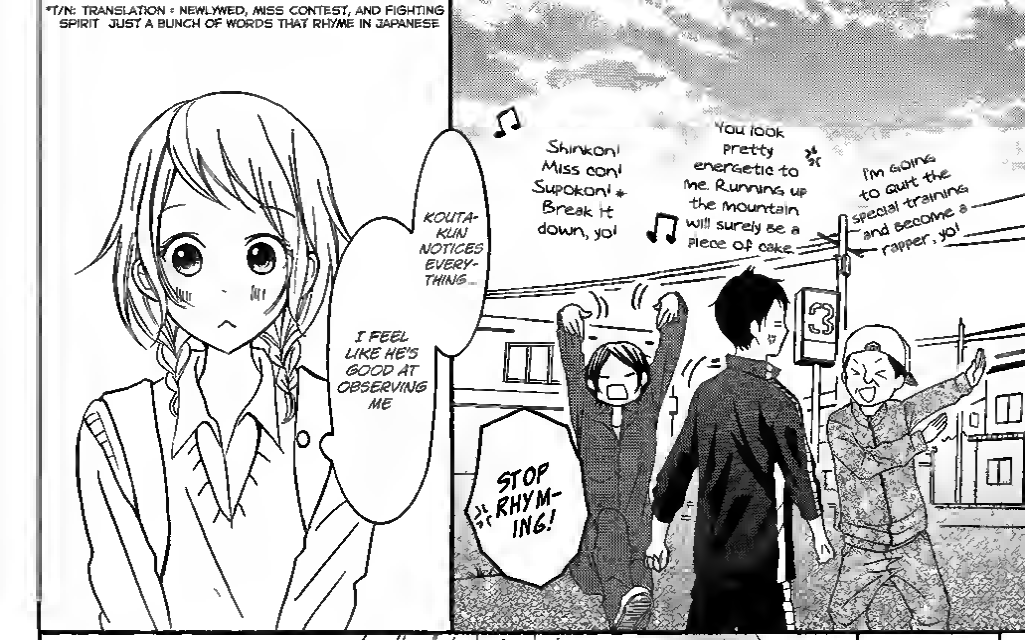
Sigh
Urghh our holiday
Let's give up

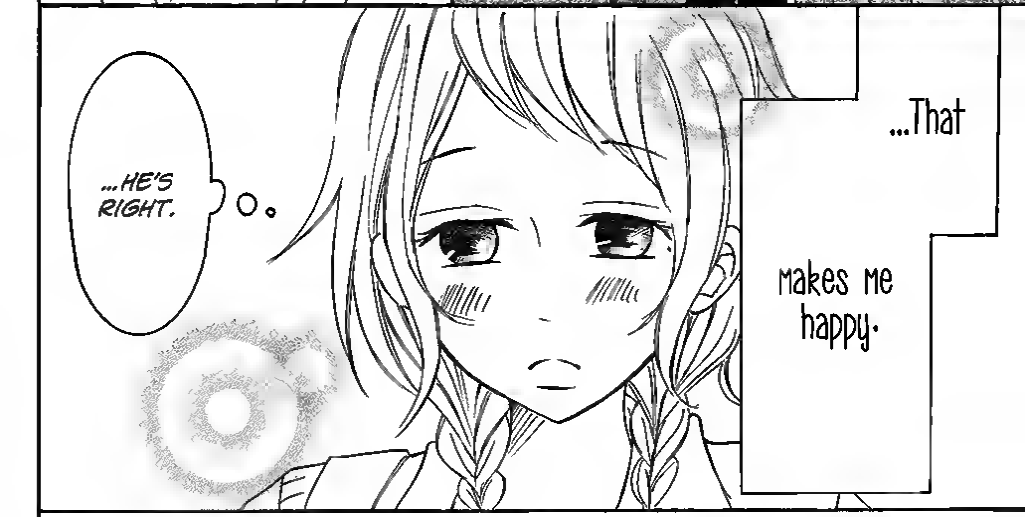

AH, I UNDER-STAND. DO YOUR BEST!
Sorry
...IT'S LIKE THIS, SO I WON'T HAVE MUCH FREE TIME FOR NOW.

YOU DON'T SEEM VERY LIVELY TODAY.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN AT SCHOOL?
...I HAD A LITTLE FIGHT WITH MIKADO...
OHH, RIGHT...
BUT IT WAS COMPLETELY MY FAULT, SO I'M GOING TO APOLOGIZE AGAIN TOMORROW.
I'M SURE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE UP QUICKLY THEN.
I WONDER...
YOU WILL.

BECAUSE YOU ARE BOTH GOOD KIDS.
Bow
Bump
YO, YO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YO?
Bum chi Bum Bum chi
Bum chi Bum Bum chi
EVERYBODY IS WAITING FOR US, YO.
I'M GOING TO GET GOING...
Check it out
yeah, yeah
Do your best
YEAH

*T/N: TRANSLATION = NEWLYWED, MISS CONTEST, AND FIGHTING SPIRIT JUST A BUNCH OF WORDS THAT RHYME IN JAPANESE


I FEEL LIKE HE'S GOOD AT OBSERVING ME
KOUTA-KUN NOTICES EVERY-THING...
Shinkon! Miss con! Supokon! * Break it down, yo!
You look pretty energetic to me. Running up the mountain will surely be a piece of cake.
I'm going to quit the special training and become a rapper, yo!
STOP RHYM-ING!



STEP
STEP
I need to see her again and properly apologize.
STEP
MIKADO!

OH, WHAT ARE YOU DOING, KAKO?
JOLT
AHH, THAT'S TERRIBLE... THAT HURTS MY FEELINGS SO I'M GOING TO COME OVER...
Don't Come!!!
STEP
STEP
N- NOTHING!! IT DOESN'T MATTER, SO DON'T COME OVER HERE!!
Oh no! He will see Mikado!!
TURN
ACTUALLY,
WHY HAS MIKADO BEEN HIDING HERE SINCE A WHILE AGO?

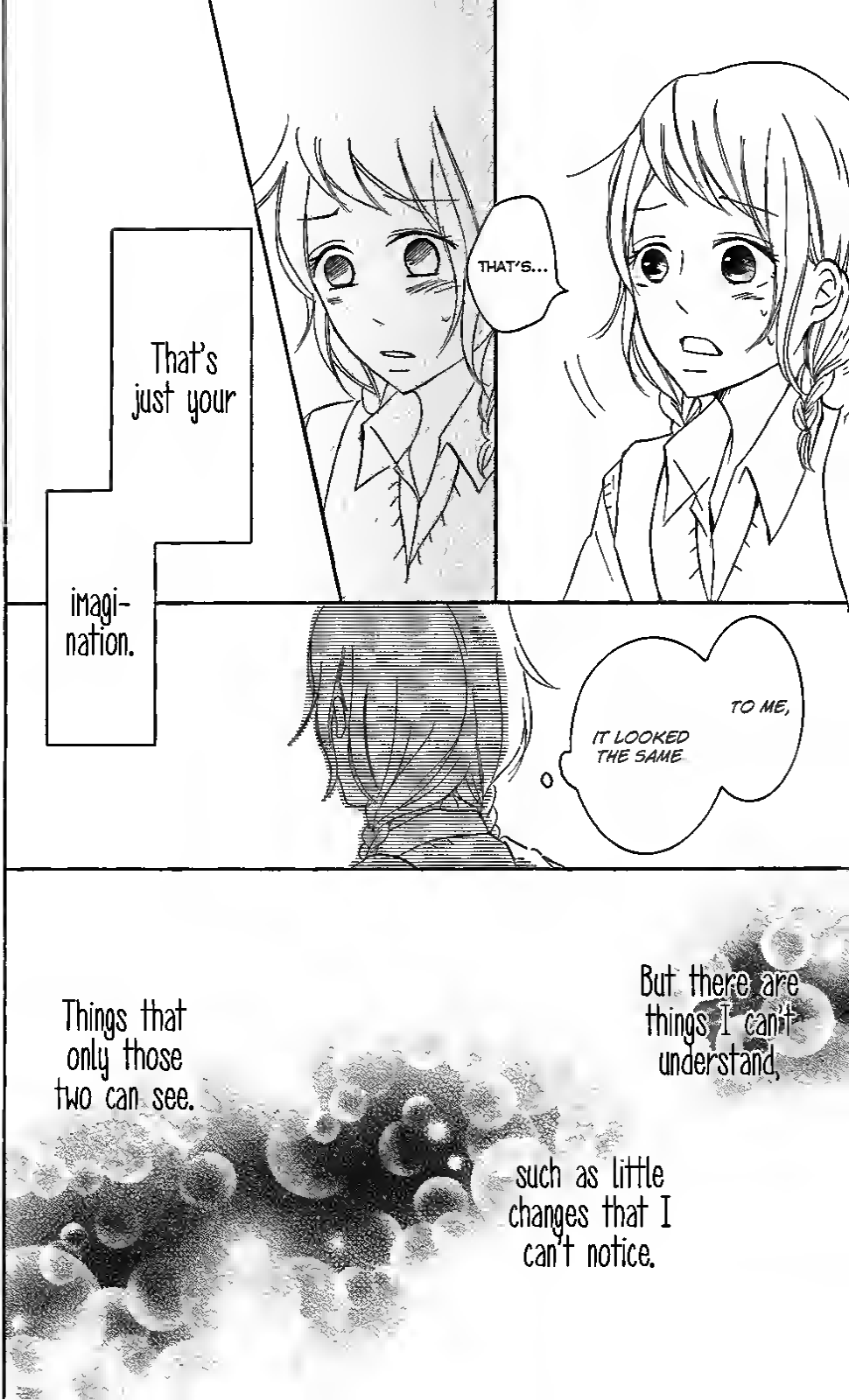
BY THE WAY,
YOU SEEM KIND OF DOWN?
...YOU
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WAS FLIRTING WITH SOMEONE FROM SCHOOL! I WAS HIDING FOR YOU!
Hmph!
I DIDN'T KNOW LENDING A MANGA IS CONSIDERED FLIRTING...
YOU'RE READING TOO FAR INTO THINGS. PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
I DON'T WANT TO BE TOLD THAT BY YOU!
SHE'S BACK TO THE NORMAL MIKADO

SINCE A WHILE BACK ACTUALLY...
SINCE SUMMER BREAK MAYBE? I'VE BEEN FEELING LIKE SOMETHING IS OFF, BUT
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
He notices everything about Mikado...
.....
..JIRO CHAN,

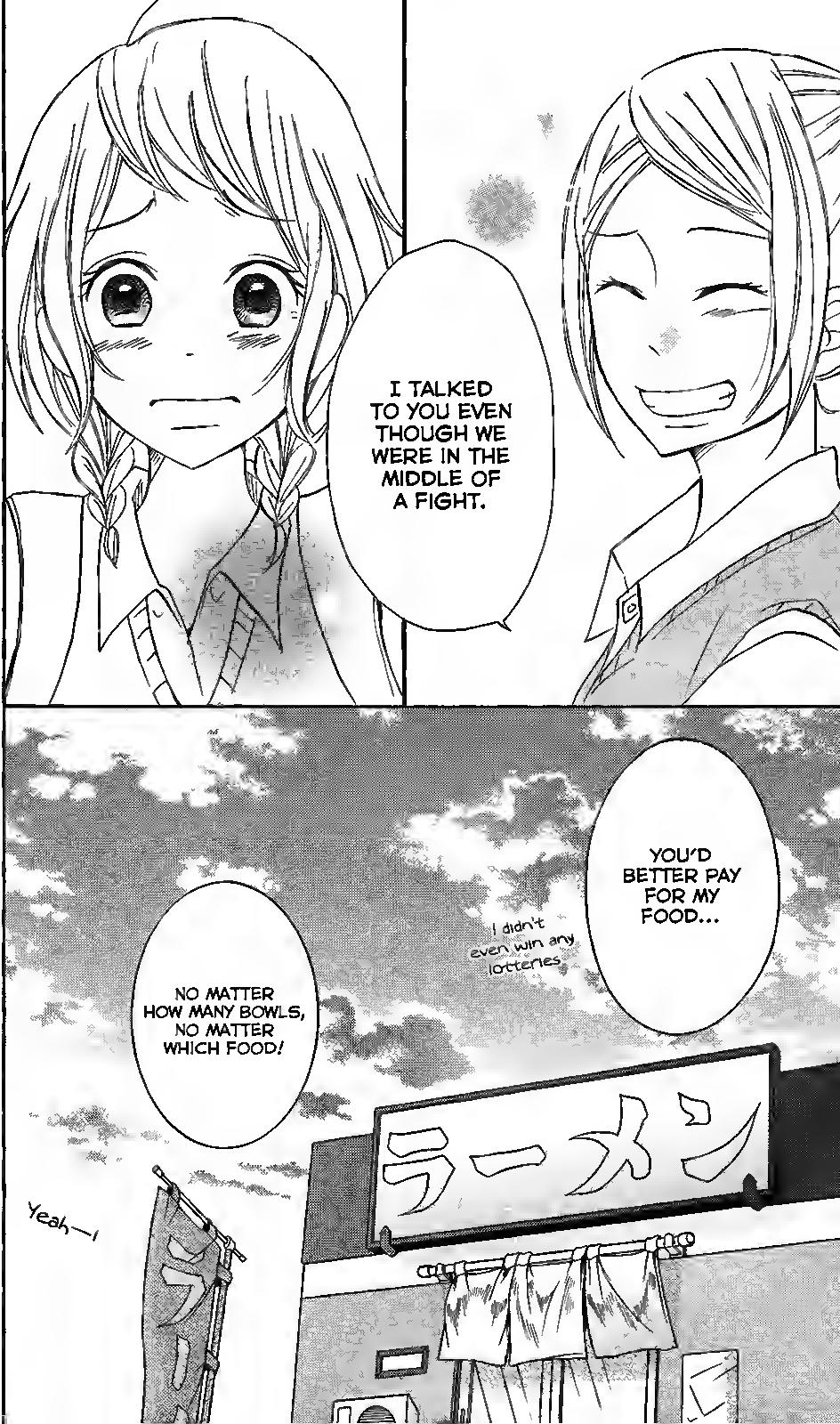
.....
JIRO...
ARE YOU PRETENDING TO BE PSYCHIC? HUH?
BANG
OW! I'M NOT, I'M ACTUALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU!!
GRIP
ACTUALLY, I WON THE LOTTERY.
AH!
MMPH!
EH, SERIOUSLY?!
WITH THAT MONEY, WE'RE GOING TO GO EAT RAMEN
LET'S GO, KAKO.
EH? OKAY...
AH, NO FAIR! ME TOO, ME TOO!!
YOU CAN'T COME.
What's up with that cheapskate—

ABOUT JIRO-CHAN...
.....
.....
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
HE'S NORMALLY SLOW,
BUT WHEN IT COMES TO MIKADO, HE NOTICES EVERY-THING.
I'M START-ING TO THINK THAT HE COULD HAVE FEELINGS FOR YOU...
THAT'S NOT A GOOD SIGN AT ALL.
BUT...
IF A FAMILY MEMBER WAS SICK, OF COURSE YOU WOULD NOTICE.
IT'S THE SAME THING.
IT'S NOT LIKE HE NOTICES THINGS ABOUT ME BECAUSE HE WANTS TO.

THERE ARE THINGS THAT I DON'T WANT
TO NOTICE EITHER.
...LIKE
WHAT ...?
THE WAY HE ACTS IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT
FOR EXAMPLE.
WHEN HE'S TOGETHER WITH ONOZUKA-SAN,


That's just your imagi-nation.
THAT'S...
TO ME, IT LOOKED THE SAME
But there are things I can't understand,
such as little changes that I can't notice.
Things that only those two can see.

"I want to be with Jiro for the rest of my life, but I can't say that!!"
that's why,
But
I'm thinking that "he could have feelings for Mikado."
AH,
I SCREWED UP.


I TALKED TO YOU EVEN THOUGH WE WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIGHT.
YOU'D BETTER PAY FOR MY FOOD...
I didn't even win any lotteries
NO MATTER HOW MANY BOWLS, NO MATTER WHICH FOOD!
Yeah—!
ラーメン